

## What Patriotism Means to Me

Patriotism is widely defined as love or devotion to one's country, but truly, I think that it is immensely more than that. In the United State's history, there have been countless people who have given their lives in so many different ways; especially in all of the conflicts and wars we have had since our founding. Forty two million people have served our country through the military, one of them being my father, and if I have learned anything about the terrible things that these brave people have gone through for us, it's that we should not take this country and its extraordinary freedoms that we have been given, for granted.

I think one of the biggest reasons that our country's citizens have fought for our nation so valiantly is the ideals that we stand for. People from all over the world see in America what most of us, myself included, seem to overlook. We have so many freedoms here, along with having wonderful opportunities to exceed expectations if you truly work at it. Personally, I am very grateful to have grown up here my entire life, and I couldn't imagine being in a place where all of the blessings that I have been spoiled with, wouldn't have been available to me. I need to always be conscious of the sacrifices made by the bravest people I can imagine, that have given their all to maintain our nation's ideals and freedoms.

Overall, I think patriotism is the everyday ability to remember all of the sacrifices that have gone into each and every one of our lives, along with loyalty to our country and what it stands for. Through patriotism, I believe that we can truly fulfill our pledge of allegiance; to have loyalty to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I sincerely hope that I will always show patriotism in all I do, and I hope everyone else will too.